

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 851992

Date _____

For: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane
National Security Council
The White House

Reference:

To: President From: Durenberger

Date: June 20, 1985 Subject: National Commission
on Security and Espionage

WH Referral Dated: July 8, 1985 NSC ID# 325064
(if any)

_____ The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State.

Action Taken:

X A draft reply is attached.

_____ A draft reply will be forwarded.

_____ A translation is attached.

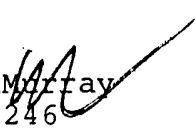
_____ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.

_____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.

_____ The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.

_____ Other.

Remarks:

Drafted: H:LRM 
8/14/85 x21246
Clearance: INR:LSulc

Nicholas Pratt
Executive Secretary

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in further response to your June 20 letter to the President concerning your Committee's ongoing study on the Soviet intelligence threat and US counter-intelligence and security programs. You will recall that I wrote you earlier on July 8 to express the Administration's appreciation for your successful efforts in defeating the Byrd amendment to establish a special National Commission on Security and Espionage.

The Administration shares with you, as well as with the supporters of the Byrd amendment, the belief that there is need for a thorough review of the foreign espionage problem and the threat this poses for the national security. We do not believe, however, that yet another special body, would be sufficiently broad nor have sufficient resources available to conduct the kind of in depth investigation that present day circumstances require.

The Honorable
Dave Durenberger, Chairman,
Select Committee on Intelligence,
United States Senate.

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Rather, we believe that the locus of such a review should be in the Senate Committee of Intelligence and its companion Committee in the House, bodies which were created specifically for such purposes.

It is for these reasons that the Administration strongly supports your efforts in organizing the Senate Intelligence Committee's current study of the Soviet intelligence threat and of US counter-intelligence and security programs. In recent months progress has been made in reducing the potential for espionage damage and in tightening domestic security practices in general. Nevertheless, our work is far ^{from} complete, and additional steps should be taken. Your Committee can be of great help in reviewing the problems with us and in developing recommendations for action. The President, the Secretary of State, and the Director of Central Intelligence, all are in full accord on this point, and every effort will be made to cooperate with you and your Committee.

I am pleased to note that several hearings have already been held and that more are planned once Congress returns from recess. I know good lines of cooperation already exist, but should the need arise, please feel free to contact Mr. Kenneth

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de Graffenreid, the Special Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs.

Sincerely,

M. B. Oglesby
Assistant to the President